



Sacramento County Farm Bureau

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July 1, 2008

Phil Isenberg, Chair
Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force
650 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Preliminary staff draft of the Delta Vision Strategic Plan

Dear Mr. Isenberg:

Farm Bureau is California's largest farm organization representing roughly 91,000 members throughout the state. Farm Bureau strives to protect and improve the ability of farmers and ranchers engaged in production agriculture to provide a reliable supply of food and fiber through responsible stewardship of the land's resources. The Sacramento County Farm Bureau's purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout Sacramento County and to find solutions to farm, farm home and rural community problems.

On behalf of the Sacramento County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, I wish to express our concern regarding the preliminary staff draft of the Delta Vision Strategic plan (June 18, 2008). It is disappointing that the cultural, economic and environmental contributions of agriculture to the Delta and the rest of California are not adequately recognized in the draft plan. Agriculture provides society with more than food and fiber--it provides open space, wildlife habitat, flood protection, and much more. Delta agriculture is more than a \$2 billion industry, and the production of pears, wine grapes, tomatoes, feed grains and other crops is the economic driver of the Delta economy.

Farm Bureau supports the 11-point Multi-County Resolution on Water and Delta Related Issues as approved at the June 17, 2008 Sacramento County Board of Supervisors meeting. This 11-point document specifically points out the importance of protecting the economic viability of agriculture and the ongoing vitality of communities in the Delta. Incorporating agriculture into all four Strategic Plan areas is vital.

Therefore, the Sacramento County Farm Bureau vigorously opposes ecosystem performance measures, which set targets for conversion of 300,000 acres of productive agricultural land to tidal marsh, active floodplain, seasonal wetlands, and channel habitat. This is unacceptable and will do major damage to Delta agriculture. The Sacramento Farm Bureau supports reasonable ecosystem goals with logical and connected complexes of various physical habitats. These ecosystems must center themselves around existing ecosystems such as the Yolo Bypass, Liberty Island and Prospect Island. Sutter Island and New Hope Track should not be considered for tidal marsh restoration because they are not connected to existing ecosystems,

and farmers on these islands are currently producing high-value crops such as pears, wine grapes and tomatoes.

Finally, the Sacramento Farm Bureau concurs with the draft goal for regional self-sufficiency. By reducing dependence on Delta water exports, the water supply for the ecosystem and millions of Californians will be more secure in the future

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ken Oneto,
President

cc: Blue Ribbon Task Force
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Honorable Barbara Boxer
Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Honorable Dan Lungren
Honorable Doris Matsui
Honorable Dave Cox
Honorable Michael Machado
Honorable Darrell Steinberg
Honorable Guy Houston
Honorable Alan Nakanishi
Honorable Roger Niello
Honorable Lois Wolk
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
Director of Water Resources, Keith DeVore
Legislative Advocate, Leslie McFadden
Contra Costa County Farm Bureau
Solano County Farm Bureau
Yolo County Farm Bureau
San Joaquin County Farm Bureau
California Farm Bureau Federation